

REMARKS

The present amendment is being filed under a Certificate of Mailing as indicated. Claims 1-6, 8-10, 12-19, and 21-34 are pending. Claims 1, 8, 9, 12, 18, 30, 31, 32, and 34 have been amended. Claims 7, 11, and 20 have been cancelled.

§103

Claims 1-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 7,048,740 to White (“White”). Independent claim 1 is directed to an acetabular reamer that includes a body defining a relief surface that is operably connected to and defines an edge of a peripheral surface of the body. Independent claim 1 recites that the peripheral surface (14) is a truncated hemisphere with its boundaries defined by the end surface (20) and the relief surface (22). Claim 1 has been amended to recite two relief surfaces as well as two support structures. The support structures extend along the relief surfaces and extend inwardly from the relief surfaces toward the origin.

It is the Applicants’ belief that such support structures are not shown in White. The Office Action refers to the support structures as 441. The structures 441 do not extend inwardly from the relief towards the origin. There is also no suggestion that such a design would be desirable.

Therefore, for at least this reason, claim 1 and its dependents are believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Independent claim 18 also has been amended to recite two relief surfaces as well as two support structures. The support structures extend along the relief surfaces and extend inwardly from the relief surfaces toward the origin. As stated above in reference to claim 1, White does not disclose this feature. For at least this reason, claim 18 and its dependents are believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Independent claim 30 has also been amended to recite two relief surfaces as well as two support structures. The support structures extend along the relief surfaces and extend inwardly from the relief surfaces toward the origin. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed in relation to claim 1, independent claim 30 and its dependents are believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Independent claim 34 has also been amended to recite two relief surfaces as well as two support structures. The support structures extend along the relief surfaces and extend

inwardly from the relief surfaces toward the origin. Therefore, for at least the reasons discussed in relation to claim 1, independent claim 34 is believed to be allowable over the prior art.

Conclusion

For the above-described reasons it is respectfully submitted that the rejections to the claims have been overcome and that all remaining claims, namely claims 1-34 are currently in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If there are any questions or comments that would speed prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at 574-372-7332.

As this response is being filed within three months of the mailing of the Final Office Action, no fee is believed to be due at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
/Cynthia K. Barnett/

Cynthia K. Barnett
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 48,655

Johnson & Johnson
One Johnson & Johnson Plaza
New Brunswick, NJ 08933-7003
(574) 372-7332
Date: January 8, 2010